

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is requested. The subject application is a division of pending U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/859,692 filed May 17, 2001, which is a re-issue application seeking to re-issue U.S. Patent No. 5,905,514 granted May 18, 1999, to Rhoads et al.

In the first Office Action of the subject divisional patent application, on sheet 1 of the Office Action Summary, there is indication in box 4 that Claims 32-50 are pending in the application and in box 6 that Claims 32-50 are rejected. However, on the transmittal sheet accompanying the subject application, under "Other Amendments," Claims 1-31, 39-45 and 51 were canceled.

In the first Office Action, Claim 50 was rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 50 has been canceled herein, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In the first Office Action, Claims 32-38 were rejected for lack of novelty over Medin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,958). This rejection is respectfully traversed. More particularly, Medin et al. is based on an application filed November 5, 1997, which is well after the November 13, 1996, filing date of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,514 of Rhoads et al. to which the subject application is entitled. Accordingly, Medin et al. cannot be a reference against the subject divisional application under either 35 USC §102(b) or 35 USC §102(e). Withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claims 32-38 over Medin et al. is therefore respectfully requested.

In the first Office Action, Claims 46-49 were rejected for lack of novelty over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,514 of Rhoads et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. More particularly, the subject divisional application has the same specification, drawings and claims as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/747,857 filed November 13, 1996, which resulted in U.S. Patent No. 5,905,514 of Rhoads et al. The subject application is a division of a re-issue application (USSN 09/859,692) of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,514, and therefore, the subject divisional application is entitled to its filing date of November 13, 1996. Accordingly, U.S.

Patent No. 5,905,514 of Rhoads cannot be a prior art reference under either 35 USC §102(b) or 35 USC §102(e). Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 46-49 over Rhoads is therefore respectfully requested.

Formal drawings for Figs. 1-40, which overcome the objections set forth on Form PTO-948 attached to the first Office Action, are transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. Jester", followed by the date "3/8/04".

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